PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: September 13, 2013

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WORKFORCE CENTERS TO HOLD OPEN HOUSES FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Alamosa and Monte Vista Workforce Centers will each hold an Open House on Monday, September 16, from 9 AM to 12 Noon

(DENVER) -- Governor John Hickenlooper has declared September as Workforce Development Month in Colorado. As part of the month of activities, the Alamosa Workforce Center at 407 State Avenue, Suite C, and the Monte Vista Workforce Center at 2079 Sherman Avenue will each hold an Open House on Monday, September 16, to showcase the wide array of services available to job seekers and employers at those locations. Both Open Houses will run from 9 AM to 12 Noon and everyone is invited.

During month, state and county run employment offices called Workforce Centers are partnering with the Department of Labor and Employment to spotlight the wide array of services and resources they make available to the state's 2.7 million men and women in the state's labor force and the 170,000 Colorado businesses that hire them.

Workforce Development Month began modestly in 2004 with a handful of events. Now in its tenth year, the annual series of events has grown to include a wide array of workshops, open houses, hiring events, employer seminars and online features.

Each Open House on Monday, September 16, will be an opportunity to tell visitors about the variety of free programs and services that can help job seekers connect with employers and build

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effective job search skills. Employers can also learn how both Workforce Centers can help them in staffing their business and strengthening their competitiveness.

And the Open Houses are not intended solely for new customers, says Employment and Training Specialist Stephanie Goldbranson. "These events are also a way to thank the job seekers and employers in both communities who have utilized our services in the past. We want to thank the people of Alamosa and Monte Vista for their support for so many years."

Workforce Development Month is a time to focus on creating a stronger and more competitive Colorado. In his proclamation, Governor Hickenlooper notes that as the economic recovery gains traction, "workers, students, learning institutions, government agencies and employers be united to meet current and future labor needs by promoting communication and collaboration and offering educational opportunities to address the challenges ahead."

For more information about the Alamosa Workforce Center Open House, contact call <u>719-589-5118</u>. Information about the Monte Vista Workforce Center Open House can be obtained by calling 719-852-5171.